

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the subject matter identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

By the above amendments, claim 29 has been canceled, and the subject matter of such claim has been incorporated into claim 19. Claim 19 has also been amended to recite that R_f in formula (2) represents -CF₂H. Claim 19 has further been amended to recite that the coating composition for forming the second functional layer is applied onto the first functional layer after the first functional layer is cured by ionizing radiation. Support for such amendment can be found in the instant specification at least at page 39, lines 19-20 and page 154 lines 5-6. New dependent claims 30-34 have been added. Support for new claim 30 can be found in the instant specification at least at page 25, lines 5-12. Support for new claim 31 can be found at least at the paragraph bridging pages 24 and 25. Support for new claims 32 can 33 can be found at least at page 22. Support for new claim 34 can be found at least in original claim 6. Entry of the foregoing amendments is appropriate at least because a Request for Continued Examination is being filed herewith. See 37 C.F.R. §1.114.

At the outset, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to acknowledge acceptance of the drawing sheet filed with the application on March 15, 2006, in the next Office communication.

In the Official Action, claims 19 and 27-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0072943 (*Anderson et al*) in view of Japanese Patent Document No. 2003-020303 (JP '303). The Examiner has relied on a machine translation of JP '303. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Anderson et al does not disclose or suggest each feature recited in independent claim 19. For example, *Anderson et al* does not disclose or suggest a method for producing an optical functional film, comprising at least a first functional layer and a second functional layer, which are adjacently formed in this order on a transparent support, wherein a coating composition for forming the first functional layer contains a fluoroaliphatic group-containing copolymer which has a polymerization unit derived from a fluoroaliphatic group-containing monomer represented by formula (2) in a content of 50 weight% or more, the fluoroaliphatic group-containing copolymer is localized on a surface of the first functional layer when the coating composition for forming the first functional layer is coated, and the fluoroaliphatic group-containing copolymer dissolves out into a coating composition for forming the second functional layer when the second functional layer is coated, wherein the coating composition for forming the second functional layer is applied onto the first functional layer after the first functional layer is cured by ionizing radiation, as recited in claim 19.

In this regard, the Patent Office has relied on *Anderson et al* for disclosing an interphase region which is formed by the intermingling or slight solubilization of the composition used to form the first polymeric layer with the composition used to form the second polymeric layer. See paragraph [0053]. The Patent Office has alleged that a fluoroaliphatic group-containing copolymer dissolves out into the interphase region. See Official Action at pages 3-4. However, claim 19 now recites that the coating composition for forming the second functional layer is applied onto the first functional layer **after the first functional layer is cured by ionizing radiation**. That is, the coating composition for forming the second functional layer is applied onto the ionizing radiation-cured first functional layer, and the fluoroaliphatic group-containing copolymer localized on a surface of such ionizing radiation-cured first functional layer, dissolves

out into the coating composition for forming the second functional layer. In view of the fact that the first functional layer has already been ionizing radiation-cured at the time the coating composition for forming the second functional layer is applied, it is apparent that the interface between such first and second functional layers is quite different from the interphase region of *Anderson et al*, which is formed by the intermingling or slight solubilization of the **uncured compositions**. Such curing of the first functional layer by ionizing radiation prior to applying the coating composition for forming the second functional layer, results in first and second functional layers which are different from the structure taught by *Anderson et al*, in which the interphase region is formed by the combination of all of the components of the compositions for forming the first and second polymeric layers.

JP '303 fails to cure the above-described deficiencies of Anderson et al. In this regard, the Patent Office has relied on *JP '303* for disclosing the use of an amphiphilic fluoropolymer ester. See Official Action at page 4. Even if *JP '303* would have been combined with *Anderson et al* in the manner suggested by the Patent Office, the resulting combination nevertheless fails to disclose or suggest a method for producing an optical functional film, comprising at least a first functional layer and a second functional layer, which are adjacently formed in this order on a transparent support, wherein a coating composition for forming the first functional layer contains a fluoroaliphatic group-containing copolymer which has a polymerization unit derived from a fluoroaliphatic group-containing monomer represented by formula (2) in a content of 50 weight% or more, the fluoroaliphatic group-containing copolymer is localized on a surface of the first functional layer when the coating composition for forming the first functional layer is coated, and the fluoroaliphatic group-containing copolymer dissolves out into a coating composition for forming the second functional layer when the second

functional layer is coated, wherein the coating composition for forming the second functional layer is applied onto the first functional layer after the first functional layer is cured by ionizing radiation, as recited in claim 19.

For at least the above reasons, it is apparent that independent claim 19 is non-obvious over the applied art. Accordingly, withdrawal of the above §103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

The dependent claims are allowable at least by virtue of their direct or indirect dependence from independent claim 19. Thus, a detailed discussion of the additional distinguishing features recited in the dependent claims is not set forth at this time.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at his earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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